

Awareness Starts With You

Basic severe weather preparedness plans must include:

- 1) A thorough knowledge of safety rules
- 2) Designation of the best available shelter
- 3) A reliable method of communication to receive and exchange information
- 4) An emergency supply kit
- 5) Drills to test and practice the plan

Preparing for severe weather is the theme of Severe Weather Awareness Week, so how do we go about it? Preparedness plans come in all sizes as dictated by individual and collective needs. Do you know the basic safety rules? Would your children know what to do if home alone? Are plans ready to move elderly or disabled people to shelter quickly? What is your best source for obtaining warning information?

Preparedness is the key in dealing with any weather hazard!

The primary mission of the National Weather Service is to warn of impending hazardous weather. Overall, the warning system continues to get better. Improvements in radar, satellite, and computer systems have helped to detect weather phenomena over smaller areas in shorter periods of time. The Internet and an expanded NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards network have allowed nearly everyone to receive the most current weather information. However, these efforts will fail if you do not know what to do or where to go! Remember, severe weather can develop undetected, and advance warning time may only be a few minutes. Everyone needs the knowledge to react quickly and a plan of action when severe weather materializes.

Resolve to Be Ready in 2006 – Jefferson County Citizen Corps Council, along with other Citizen Corps Councils throughout the state, urges Alabama citizens to make emergency preparedness a **top priority**.

The mission of the Jefferson County Citizen Corps Council, like other county Citizen Corps Councils across Alabama, is to harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds within Jefferson County and the rest of Alabama.

The programs under the Jefferson County Citizen Corps Council are Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Neighborhood Watch, Medical Reservoir Corps (MRC), Fire Corps, and Volunteer In Police Service (VIPS).

To find out more about the programs listed under Citizen Corps Council or how you can **Be Ready in 2006** for a disaster, contact your local emergency management agency or log on to www.citizencorps.gov.



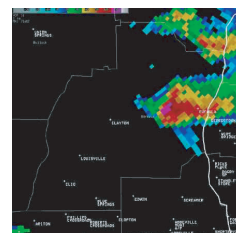
Your local emergency management agency, National Weather Service office, or American Red Cross chapter can help with your planning. Severe weather safety information is available upon request.

Watch vs. Warning

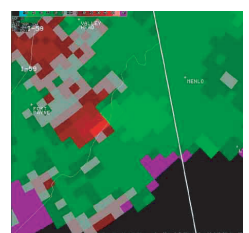
A **Watch** means that **conditions are favorable** for severe thunderstorm or tornado development. **This is the time to be weather-aware.** You should keep alert by listening to radio, television, or weather radio for the latest weather information. Know where your children are. Be aware of where you will go and what you will do if a severe thunderstorm or a tornado threatens.



A **Warning** means a severe thunderstorm or tornado **has been sighted or indicated by radar.** People in the path of the storm should take immediate life-saving actions.



Hail spike near Eufaula (Barbour County)
December 28, 2005
(note the 3 lines southeast of storm)



F0 tornado on DeKalb/Cherokee County Line
April 22, 2005